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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**13 DECEMBER 2017**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Bel Air – Fire Caused by Illegal Cooking Fire at Encampment**

(U) The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) says the Skirball Fire was caused by an illegal cooking fire at a nearby encampment in a brush area. No one was at the scene of the fire's origin when firefighters arrived and no arrests have been made. The fire is currently 85 percent contained with 69 fire personnel still working on scene to achieve 100 percent containment, LAFD officials said.

SOURCE: 12 December 2017, [ABC 7](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) District of Columbia – US Government Ban on Kaspersky Lab Software**

(U) Washington – President Donald Trump signed into law legislation yesterday that bans the use of Kaspersky Lab within the US government; capping a months-long effort to purge the Moscow-based antivirus firm from federal agencies amid concerns it was vulnerable to Kremlin influence. The ban, included as part of a broader defense policy spending bill that Trump signed, reinforces a directive issued by the administration in September 2017 that civilian agencies remove Kaspersky Lab software within 90 days. The law applies to both civilian and military networks. Kaspersky Lab has repeatedly denied that it has ties to any government and said it would not help a government with cyber espionage.

SOURCE: 12 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) New York – Police to Adapt New Year's Eve Security

(U) New York City – New York police will adjust security plans for the traditional New Year's Eve celebrations attended by hundreds of thousands of revelers in Times Square after a botched suicide bombing in a subway tunnel beneath the famous district, the city's counterterrorism chief said yesterday. The New Year's security plan will also consider other attacks such as the Las Vegas sniper shooting on 1 October that killed 58 people and wounded more than 500.

SOURCE: 12 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Texas – Drone Causes Power Outage near Border Patrol Checkpoint

(U) Laredo – Residents in Webb County yesterday experienced a power outage after a drone slammed into a power line. According to reports an unknown person was flying a drone when they lost control of it, causing it to crash into a power line. The power outage forced Border Patrol to shut down a checkpoint until power could be restored. Authorities did find out who was responsible for flying the drone and they were questioned. The US Border Patrol said this is the first time they have had an incident like this with a drone.

SOURCE: 12 December 2017, [KGNS](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Greece – Top Court Clears Way for US Extradition of Cybercrime Suspect**

(U) Athens – Greece's top court cleared the way for the extradition to the United States of a Russian man, also wanted in Moscow, suspected of having laundered billions of dollars in the digital currency bitcoin. A final decision on where Alexander Vinnik is extradited to now lies with the Greek justice minister, who steps in to resolve competing requests. Vinnik, the alleged mastermind of a \$4 billion bitcoin laundering ring, is one of seven Russians arrested or indicted worldwide this year on US cybercrime charges. US authorities accuse him of running BTC-e -- a digital currency exchange used to trade bitcoin -- to facilitate crimes ranging from computer hacking to drug trafficking since 2011.

SOURCE: 13 December 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Russia – Police Arrest ISIS Cell Preparing Holiday Attacks

(U) Moscow – Russia has arrested what it said were three members of ISIS, who were preparing suicide attacks over the holiday period. The Russian Federal Security Services (FSB) announced that three people from Central Asia were in police custody. Police raided an apartment in Moscow's western outskirts that they believed the group were using as a laboratory for explosives manufacture. The FSB confiscated two improvised explosive devices, two AK-74 rifles, a magazine of bullets, undetonated F-1 and RGD grenades and other items. The police report said the group were suspected of targeting the winter holidays and the presidential election in March 2018.

SOURCE: 12 December 2017, [Newsweek](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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